



UNCLASSIFIED TELEGRAM

OFFICE OF THE U.S. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR GERMANY

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ROUTINE

PRECEDENCE

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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SINCE FOREIGN OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY MORNING, BRITISH RADIO AND PRESS HAVE GIVEN TOP COVERAGE TO ROUND-UP IN GERMANY OF FORMER NAZI LEADERS. LONG LEADING ARTICLES IN ALL PAPERS, AND COMMENT IN MOST, HAVE EXAMINED MOTIVES FOR BRITISH ACTION, IMPLICATIONS FOR GERMAN RELATIONS WITH WEST AND EAST, AND CAREERS OF NAUMANN AND HIS COHORTS. WITHOUT EXCEPTION, PAPERS APPROVED OF ARRESTS--MOST COMMENDED KIRKPATRICK AND EDEN FOR DECISIVE AND SPEEDY ACTION--ALTHOUGH SEVERAL SERIOUS PAPERS WARNED OF EFFECTS ON GERMANS AND SPECULATED ABOUT EFFECTS ON EDC RATIFICATION. POSSIBILITY COMMUNIST SUPPORT MENTIONED, ALTHOUGH NOT EMPHASIZED IN RESPONSIBLE PRESS.

TIMES BONN CORRESPONDENT SAID ARRESTS CAUSED "SENSATION" IN FEDERAL REPUBLIC, BUT QUALIFIED THIS WITH STATEMENT THAT GERMAN REACTION WAS "MIXED AS WELL AS PUZZLING." REFERRING TO SPECULATION THAT ARRESTS MAY HAVE "FAR-REACHING POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES," HE SAID INCRIMINATION OF FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS CAUSED "SOMETHING APPROACHING CONSTERNATION" AMONG LEADERS AND RANK-AND-FILE.

IN SAME COLUMN TIMES DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT ADDED: "IT CAN BE STATED WITHOUT HESITATION THAT ACTION OF BRITISH AUTHORITIES IN NO WAY IMPLIES DISRESPECT OR DIS-TRUST OF GERMAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT." EDITORIAL TIMES OBSERVED: "FEDERAL REPUBLIC IS NOT SO SHAKY THAT AN UNDERGROUND GROUP COULD COME WITHIN MEASURABLE DISTANCE OF OVERTHROWING IT, BUT THERE IS IN THIS INCIDENT A WARNING FOR GERMAN POLITICAL LIFE NEVERTHELESS. MOST GERMANS ARE IN THEIR RIGHT SENSES AND DO NOT WANT NAZIS BACK. BUT GREAT DEMOCRATIC PARTIES THAT REPRESENT THIS SAME MAJORITY NEED TO REMAIN CONSCIOUS THAT INTERESTS WHICH THEY HAVE IN COMMON ARE GREATER THAN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM. THEY HAVE BEEN LOSING SIGHT OF THIS ESSENTIAL FACT IN RECENT MONTHS, AS PARTY FEELING HAS RUN HIGHER OVER RATIFICATION OF BONN AND PARIS TREATIES."

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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LIBERAL MANCHESTER GUARDIAN, LESS APPROVING THAN MOST, SAID ARRESTS "WILL CLEARLY AROUSE GOOD DEAL OF RESENTMENT" AMONG MANY GERMANS WHO ALREADY COMPLAIN OF "INTERFERENCE," AND MUST BE SHOWN TO HAVE BEEN NECESSARY "IF THEY ARE NOT TO HAVE HARMFUL EFFECTS ON GERMAN OPINION."

DAILY TELEGRAPH (CONSERVATIVE) FOUND MOST IMPORTANT IMPLICATION IN FOREIGN OFFICE REMARKS THAT EX-NAZI PLOTTERS HAVE BEEN PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED WITH PROPAGATION OF ANTI-WESTERN VIEWS AND POLICIES" AND ON QUESTION OF THEIR CONTACTS "WITHIN AND WITHOUT FEDERAL REPUBLIC". TELEGRAPH INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN THAT BRITISH AUTHORITIES CONSIDER THAT FORMER NAZI-COMMUNIST ALLIANCE IS ONCE MORE IN BEING. "COMMUNISM HAS GLADLY EMPLOYED MEN WHO FORMERLY SERVED HITLER...IN ITS RECAST SHAPE, AS AN ANTI-WESTERN CRUSADE WITH FULL COMMUNIST BACKING. NAZI MOVEMENT MAY OFFER NEW CHALLENGE TO CIVILIZATION."

ALONG SAME LINE, DAILY MAIL (CONSERVATIVE) NOTED THERE IS "EVIDENCE OF SOME CONNECTION WITH EAST GERMANY," AND ASSERTED "RUSSIA AND GERMANY, AS NATIONS, TEND TO WORK TOGETHER." MAIL THOUGHT ARRESTS WOULD ALARM WESTERN EUROPE AND MAY SET BACK EDC IDEAS WELL AS COMPLICATE MAYER'S TASK.

NEWS CHRONICLE (LIBERAL) ASKED: "AND IN AMERICA, PREOCCUPIED AS IT IS WITH BIGGER AND LOUDER THREAT FROM EAST, WILL THERE NOT NOW BE THOSE WHO WILL BETTER UNDERSTAND SOME OF HESITANCIES AND DOUBTS THAT HAVE OBSTRUCTED WASHINGTON PLANS TO HURRY ALONG RECONCILIATION OF GERMANY AND HER NEIGHBORS?" WHILE PRODUCTION OF PROOF AGAINST PLOTTERS "MAY PROFOUNDLY AFFECT ATTITUDE TO EDC OF MEN AND GOVERNMENT FAR BEYOND GERMANY," CHRONICLE SAID TO ARGUE THAT ALL GERMANS ARE Tainted TO BE RECEIVED BACK INTO BROTHERHOOD OF NATIONS "WOULD MAKE ANOTHER CONFLICT NOT MERELY PROBABLE BUT INESCAPABLE." LESSON HAS BECOME PLAINER AND MORE LUMINOUS THAN EVER: GERMANS MUST BE ASSOCIATED IN COOPERATIVE UNDERTAKING (ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND MILITARY ALLIANCE) WHICH WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH AND PROSPEROUS ENOUGH TO MAKE NOTION OF NAZISM ABSURD. "SOONER ADENAUER'S GOVERNMENT AND PROPONENTS OF EDC ELSEWHERE CAN BE STRENGTHENED AND ENABLED TO WIN ISSUE BETTER AND SAFER IT WILL BE FOR ALL OF US."

POPULAR TABLOID DAILY MIRROR CALLED ARRESTS "VERY SALUTARY DEMONSTRATION THAT IN ONE ZONE, AT LEAST AUTHORITIES ARE KEEPING EYE NOT ONLY ON COMMUNISTS BUT ON OTHER ENEMIES OF DEMOCRACIES."

BEAVERBROOK PAPERS (DAILY EXPRESS AND EVENING STANDARD) THOUGH ARRESTS INDICATED WEST'S POLICY OF ARMING GERMANS SHOULD BE REVERSED "WHICH WAY WOULD BRIGHT NEW GERMAN BAYONETS POINT?"

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DAILY WORKER HEARTILY CONCURRED IN THIS SENTIMENT AND ADDED:
"ONLY WAY FORWARD IS TO END POLICY WHICH HAS LED TO NAZI REVIVAL AND
OPEN UP FOUR-POWER TALKS NOW FOR UNITED, DEMOCRATIC, PEACE-LOVING
GERMANY." WORKER ALLEGED LABOR MPS WOULD URGE COMMONS' DEBATE "WHERE
DEMAND FOR REPUDIATING BONN TREATIES COULD BE PUT IN FORM OF MOTION."
ADDED THAT SOME TORIES SHARE THESE VIEWS AND MAY MAKE PRIVATE REPRESENTATIONS TO EDEN TO WITHDRAW TREATIES.

GENERAL SENTIMENT POPULAR PRESS PROBABLY BEST CONTAINED IN
EVENING NEWS (CONSERVATIVE) CONTENTION THAT "ARRESTS INDICATE THAT IT
IS BY NO MEANS WISE OF SAFE AS YET TO TAKE ANYTHING FOR GRANTED IN
POST-WAR GERMANY."

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